

year was a year of accomplishment for the House of Representatives, thanks to the leadership here at the table.

And we're ready to lead again. We don't fear the future, because we're going to shape the future of the United States of America. And that means supporting our troops in harm's way. I want to thank you for supporting the troops last year, and I look forward to working with you to support our troops this coming year.

We'll continue to lead. And I want to appreciate your steadfast support in the war on terror. Our most important responsibility is to protect the American people from harm. And I want to thank the Members of Congress for working with the administration to protect the American people from future attack.

You know, in my State of the Union—thanks for paying attention to it when I got up there the other day—[laughter]—I talked about how best to keep the country competitive. You know, some would lose confidence in the capacity of this country to lead, and kind of hide behind walls. That's not what we think. We're confident in America, and we're confident in our people, and we're confident that we can work together to put good policies in place that will keep this country the world's leader when it comes to the economy. So I'm looking forward to working with you to continue to be fiscally sound with the people's money and to put those tax cuts we put in place in a permanent status.

I'm looking forward to working with you on expanding health savings accounts so we can strengthen the doctor-patient relationship. I'm looking forward to working with you on making sure that we become less dependent on Middle Eastern oil by promoting alternative sources of energy. I'm looking forward to working with you on making sure our education system remains strong and our kids can learn math and science so we remain the most competitive nation in the world.

I'm looking forward to working with you, and I'm confident we'll continue the success we have had together. And so I've come to say thanks for your hard work in the past, and thanks for what we're going to do to make this country—to continue to be the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

God bless your work. May God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:23 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 4

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will attend the funeral of Coretta Scott King on February 7.

February 5

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

February 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing followed by a National Security Council meeting. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Daniel M. Rooney, chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team, to congratulate him on the team's Super Bowl victory on February 5. He then had a telephone conversation with Amir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah of Kuwait to offer his condolences on the death of his brother, Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, to wish him well as he takes the position, and to invite him to the White House at his convenience.

In the afternoon, in the Family Dining Room, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with former President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain and his wife, Ana Botella.

In the evening, in the East Room, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a performance honoring the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

February 7

In the morning, the President had a working breakfast with Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. He and Mrs. Bush then traveled to Lithonia, GA. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark to discuss the recent violence against Danish and other diplomatic facilities and the importance of religious tolerance and freedom of the press.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President had a working dinner with King Abdullah II of Jordan and Members of Congress.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patricia P. Brister to be the U.S. Representative on the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to appoint Sander R. Gerber as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Woodrow Wilson International Center of Scholars (Public).

The President announced his intention to appoint Tamala Lynne Longaberger as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Woodrow Wilson International Center of Scholars (Government Representative).

The President announced his intention to designate Peter Jon Thomas as Acting Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration.

The President announced his intention to designate David E. Jeremiah, Arthur B. Culvahouse, and Donald L. Evans as members of the Intelligent Oversight Board.

February 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Manchester, NH, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Vernetta Reimel.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, he dropped by a meeting of CEOs from the Business Roundtable. Then, in the Cabinet Room, he had a meeting with Re-

publican congressional leaders to discuss legislative priorities.

February 9

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to discuss foreign policy issues and the situation in the Middle East. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had lunch with President Lech Kaczynski of Poland. Later, he participated in a meeting and photo opportunity with members of the Major Cities Chiefs Association and the Major County Sheriffs Association.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez of El Salvador to the White House on February 24.

The President announced his intention to nominate Andrew B. Steinberg to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Aviation and International Affairs.

The President announced his intention to appoint Julianna M. Cellini as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Trung Dung and Richard J. Wall as members of the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation.

February 10

In the morning, the President had breakfast with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. Then, in the Oval Office, he met with Rebecca Garang, Minister of Transportation, Roads, and Bridges of the Government of Southern Sudan.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Cambridge, MD.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**
